

# ETHICS

for the

# NEW MILLENNIUM

## TWENTY HUMAN OBLIGATIONS

### TOWARD YOURSELF

Obtain an education so that you can function properly in society and form your own critical judgment.

Take care of yourself to the best of your ability; do not live at the expense of others unless forced by circumstances beyond your control.

Accept responsibility for the consequences of your actions as well as your inaction.

### TOWARD SOCIETY

Make yourself useful in society and reinforce the community's security, freedom, justice and order by assuming your part in public life to the best of your ability.

Help support the weak and needy members of the community who cannot adequately defend or provide for themselves or their families.

Earn your living through honest and fair means, not through aggression, violence, coercion, corruption, theft, or fraud.

### TOWARD ALL HUMAN BEINGS

Treat others as you would want them to treat you - as equals who deserve respect, not discrimination or exploitation.

Respect the values and beliefs of others, and tolerate their way of life, as you would have them respect and tolerate yours; but remember you do not have to accept practices that infringe on fundamental human rights.

Help people in acute danger, distress or need as much as you can, without becoming a martyr.

Do not jeopardize the lives and safety of others and do not remove or destroy that which is not yours, except in cases of individual or collective self-defense.

Undo harm you have done to others as much as you can.

### TOWARD YOUR FAMILY

Nourish, protect and educate your children until they are of an age to take their own places in society.

Provide the necessities of life to your spouse and other members of your family if they cannot provide for themselves.

Respect and care for your parents, brothers, and sisters, who should treat you with mutual care and respect.

### TOWARD THE STATE

Obey just and valid laws of the land, insist that the authorities do the same, and seek redress if they do not.

Protect public property and contribute to its maintenance by paying taxes and offering public service.

Be loyal to the state and defend its legitimate interests against internal and external threats, as long as the state acts in the common interest and respects international law.

### TOWARD THE EARTH

Respect humankind's historical and cultural heritage - preserve relics from the past and works of art from theft and destruction.

Protect the air you breathe and the water you drink as well as the sea, land, and forests you share as common property with other living creatures.

Preserve and improve the environment in ways that will help ensure the continued survival and well-being of the multitude of life forms that share the planet Earth.

Compiled and synthesized by Prof. Alex P. Schmid on the basis of many answers from different countries, cultures and religions to a questionnaire about the 'The Duties of Man' (cf. PIOOM Newsletter & Progress Report, Vol.5, No.1, pp.11-14).

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